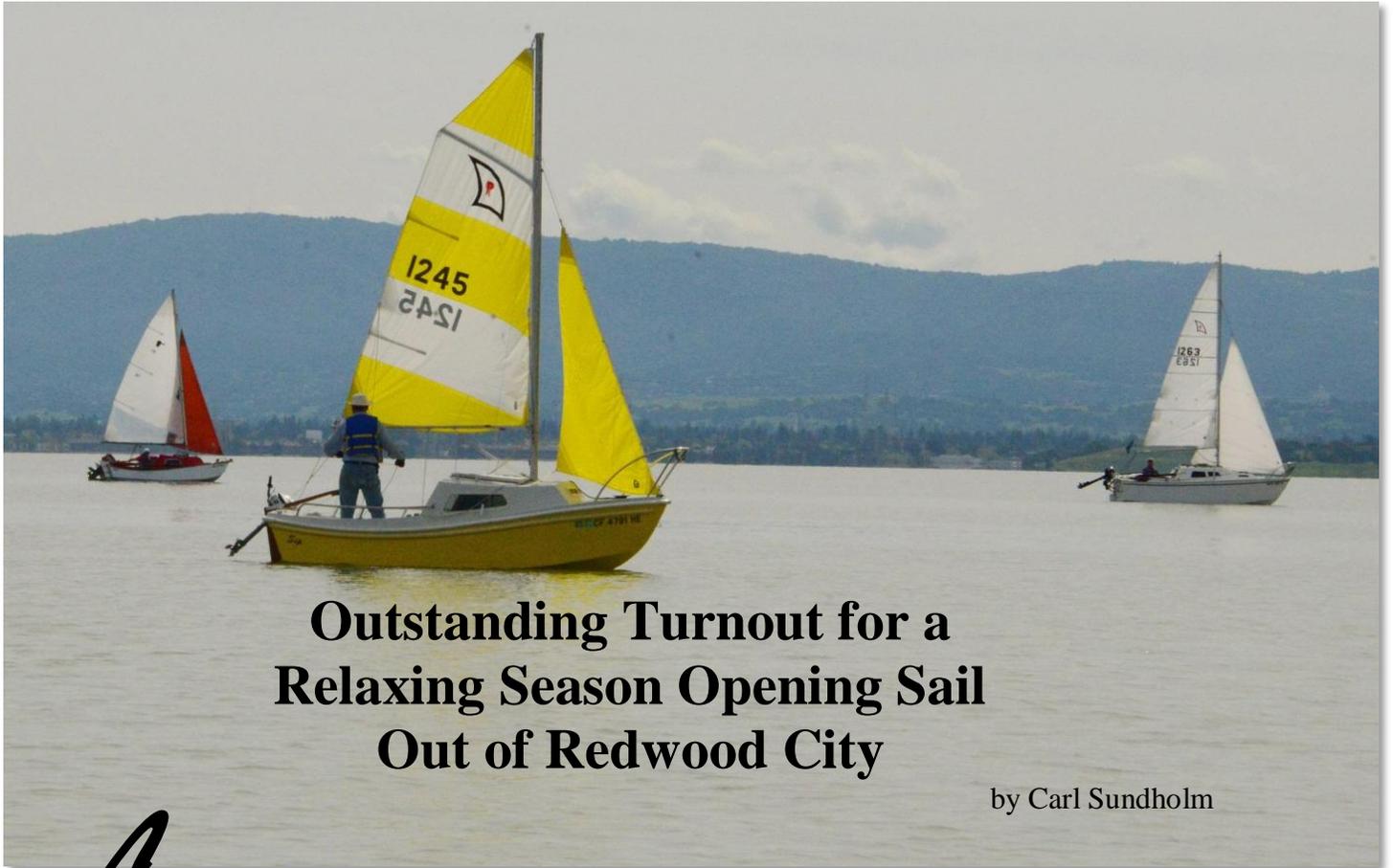




The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

April 2015



Outstanding Turnout for a Relaxing Season Opening Sail Out of Redwood City

by Carl Sundholm



Life is about doing stuff, and doing sailing is on my list of favorite stuff to do. So, after what seemed to be a very short winter, I think we were all looking forward to the Potter Yachters' season opening sail at Redwood City on March 21, 2015, and the traditional St. Patrick's Day Weekend dinner hosted by the Peninsula Yacht Club.

Many sailors traveled from far and wide just to make the sail, and stayed overnight on Friday berthed in Docktown, courtesy of the Peninsula Yacht Club.

Needless to say, when staying in that location one must be cognizant of the tides.

(Season Opening Sail continued on page 5)

Ship's Stores for sale. Send orders to **Pat Brennan**:

Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

- Burgees \$25.00
- Bumper stickers \$ 2.50 (just shows the burgee; no text)
- Patches \$ 2.50 (Both round and burgee shaped)
- Info Packets \$20.00 (Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to our CafePress website and buy a Cap, Stein, or T-Shirt with the club logo on it.

Visit: <http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters>

Also in this issue:

- Commodore's Corner..... Page 2
- Upcoming: Benicia Sail Page 3
- Upcoming: Moss Landing Page 4
- Events on the Horizon Page 5
- This Month in History..... Page 10



The Commodore's Corner

By Rob Sampson

Potter Yachting keeps you young. Well, that's what I think. Small boat sailing keeps you physically active with rigging and de-rigging, and with sailing itself. It keeps you mentally active with the skills of sailing, navigating, tinkering and dealing with unexpected situations.

And there is something else. When I'm out exploring rivers, sloughs, lakes and oceans with my Potter Yachter friends, there is a feeling of youthful excitement. It feels a lot like when I was a kid and we roamed the neighborhood creeks, fields and hills discovering new things. It's a good sport, hobby, activity, and social club.

The Redwood City sail on the weekend of March 21 was a rousing success. Great weather, a good turnout (I think we had 14 boats), and wonderful hosting by the Peninsula Yacht Club (dinner, breakfast, free berthing and even prizes). Carl has a full write up elsewhere in this issue. Thanks Carl and Peninsula Yacht Club.

Last year we had a great Alameda sail and sail-by of the Strictly Sail Boat show. See Tim Derry's photo in the 2015 PY Calendar. We also noticed a Drone flying overhead while we were sailing by. I was able to track down the Drone owner later when we were at the show and get some of the photos. I think you'll agree that they came out great. - 



Upcoming: April 18th, 2015

Benicia Sail with Overnight Option

Sail Host: Goose

April 18 is the annual sail from Benicia (California's first capitol!). It has always been well attended; usually with 15-20 boats. Many make a weekend out of it, getting slips at the [Benicia Marina](#). For those who would like to try something new, [anchoring out](#) at the [Benicia State Park](#) is an option. It's protected, shallow, and has lots of wildlife.

[Winds and weather](#) in early spring are typically perfect; with 70ish temps and 8-15k winds. Currents usually determine where we sail to, and with low tide at 7am, and high at 2pm it looks good for a flood assisted down-wind sail to the remnants of the Mothball fleet. After lunch aboard, and catching the early ebb back to the ramp or marina, we can relax before heading to the Benicia YC or my house for refreshments and dinner. A "preview" of ReGale is in order, or perhaps even a christening!

Free launch and parking at 9th Street ramp in Benicia, with skipper's meeting about 10am. Those staying at the [Benicia Marina](#) (707/745-2628) can also use the ramp there. Main Street, just a few blocks away, has lots of shops, antiques, and art for non-sailors. The Union Hotel is cool, and not expensive.

See you there! Goose. - 

Directions to 9th Street Ramp, Benicia

From I-680:

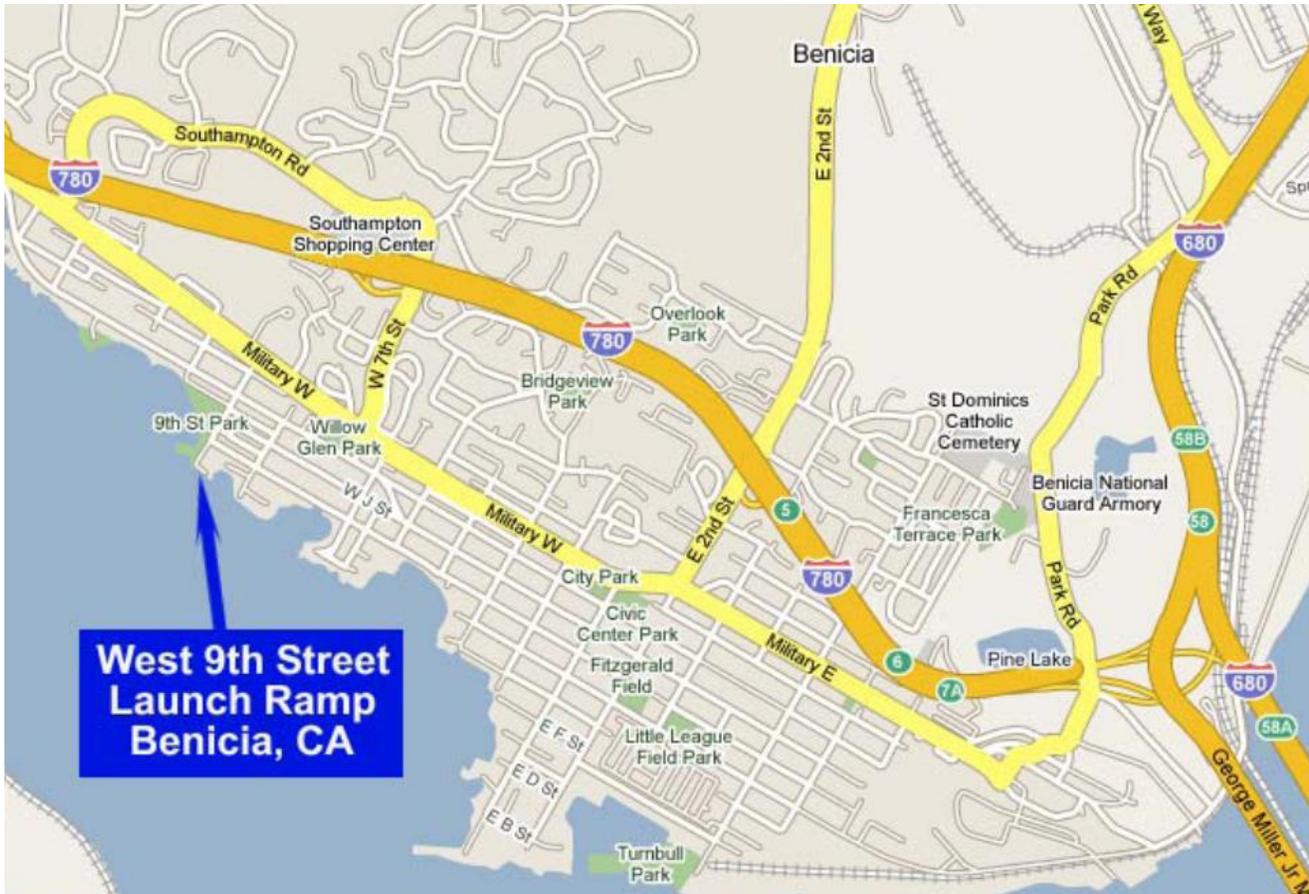
Exit onto I-780 West towards Benicia
Exit at Military East
Stay along water until 9th

From I-80:

Exit onto I-780 East towards Benicia
Exit at Southampton Rd
Head toward water (veering by Taco Bell)
Turn Right immediately onto W. K St.
Turn Left onto W. 9th St.

To Benicia Marina:

Exit 5th Street and ramp is at end of 5th.
Marina office for check-in is on 2nd Street.



Upcoming: May 2, 2015

Moss Landing Overnight

Sail Host: Mike Swartz/Bud Kerner

Join the Potter Yachters on May 2nd and celebrate Kentucky Derby Day at [Elkhorn Yacht Club!](#)

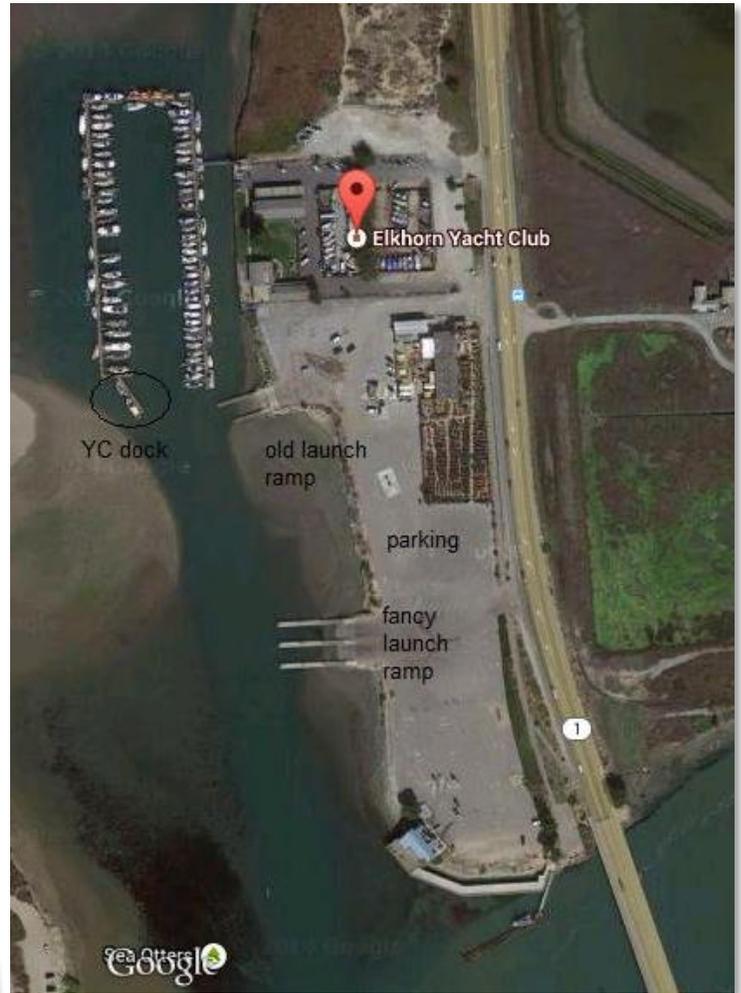
Rita Jacques, interim Club Manager, says they'll be planning something that "will probably have to do with hats and mint juleps." She cheerfully added, "we always enjoy your group."

We'll most likely have access to [Elkhorn Yacht Club's guest dock](#), so there's an overnight option -- and no reason not to partake of their hospitality and well-stocked bar!

There's plenty of parking space, although the [fee schedule](#) is a conversation starter. Once you decide what to pay, you put exact change into the "iron ranger" using the envelopes provided. Our best guess is that it's \$11 to launch/retrieve and \$12 per 24 hours parking. It's a long walk to the Harbor Master's office if you need to make change.

You can sometimes find free parking at the yacht club, so check with them when you drive up.

Directions: Get onto 101 South, take Hwy 129 West towards Watsonville, take Hwy 1 South, turn into the parking lot past Jetty Rd (before the bridge in front of the power plant). - 



NORTH HARBOR ACCESS/USE PERMITS	
PARK AND LAUNCH (one-way)	\$17.00
LAUNCH ONLY/ NO PARK (one-way)	\$11.00
PARK 12 HOURS (one-way)	\$6.00
PARK 24 HOURS (one-way)	\$12.00
MONTHLY PARKING (one-way)	\$77.00
ANNUAL PARK AND LAUNCH (one-way)	\$160.00



Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2015 PYN](#), page 4.

The Potter Yachter

(Season Opening Sail continued from page 1)

However, the rising tide brought everyone together with time to spare.

Others, including myself, showed up bright and early at the Redwood City Marina Ramp parking lot to set up their sailboats and get out on the water. It was good to get together with so many good friends again.

All told, fourteen boats turned out skippered by (1) Commodore Rob Sampson (Vagabond 17), (2) Don Person (Potter 15), (3) Harry Gordon (Potter 14), (4) Bud Kerner (Potter 19), (5) Goose (highly creatively modified Potter 14), (6) Dave Kautz and Eric Zilbert (O'Day 192), (7) Dan Phy and Jim Kirwan (Monty 15), (8) Bruce McDevitt (Potter 15), (9) Mitch Carnes (Potter 15), (10) Dana Suverkrop (Potter 15), (11) Jean-Pierre Boquet (Potter 15), (12) Robert Crowe (O'Day 19), (13) yours truly Carl Sundholm (Potter 19), and (14) newbie Jerry Nolan (Potter 15)—welcome aboard Jerry!

At the Captain's meeting, it was mentioned that the afternoon winds picked up the day before, so we decided to target the



Club Events on the Horizon

- Apr. 18 (Sat-Sun) Benicia Sail with overnight option (Goose)
easy to intermediate, depending upon the winds and destination; overnight possible at dock or at anchor for individuals who choose to; plentiful parking and nice ramp
- May 2 (Sat) Moss Landing with overnight option (Mike/Bud)
intermediate to advanced – most open ocean sails are not for beginners; overnight at docks.
- May 16 (Sat-Sun) Delta Overnight Sail from B & W Resort (Jerry B)
easy but sometimes intermediate when it's very windy; overnighting in boats moored at docks
- June 6 (Sat-Sun) Woodward Reservoir (Rich/Kevin)



wreck of the destroyer U.S.S. Thompson for our anchor-out picnic lunch siesta.

There was a scarcity of wind in the morning that gave the water a glassy appearance. At first, some attempted to sail out, but more and more motors started and we motor-sailed out the channel of Redwood Creek.



Although we usually follow the channel markers all the way out, Dave Kautz indicated that he believed the conditions and tide would give us sufficient water to take an early right towards the Thompson after Channel Marker 5. Sure enough, Dave was right.

The Potter Yachter

Finding myself in the lead, I took Dagmar out of the channel at marker number 5 and saw depths no lower than 7 feet across the west side silt shelf until reaching the deep part of the Bay. Unexpectedly, the water on the Bay was as glassy and calm as it was in the channel, so we continued to motor sail out to the wreck of the Thompson.



On reaching the wreck, the water was so calm that it almost seemed unnecessary to deploy the anchor, but I cast it out anyway. It was great to have Harry, Rob, and Goose sail up and raft up with me and Dagmar for lunch.

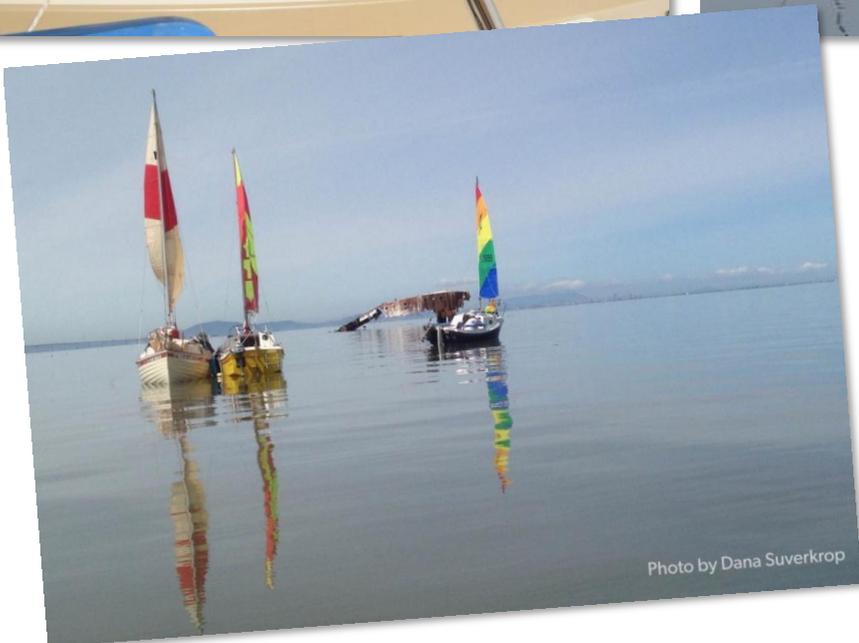


Photo by Dana Suverkrop

It was kind of like having one big loosely connected party boat, making it easy to relax, enjoy conversation, and share lunches and drinks, while enjoying the beauty and calm of the Bay.



Photo by Don Person



Many others anchored nearby and enjoyed their picnic lunches in the warmth of the spring sun. The sun rays were almost summer-like, so Harry and I used sails as sun shades, although he had a much better (and more colorful) set-up.

As we were enjoying the conversation, we noticed a slight breeze was picking up and folks were beginning to weigh anchors and set sails.



Mother Nature was kind to us, and the gentle breeze was sufficient for a very enjoyable and leisurely sail back to port.



Later the troops rendezvoused at the Peninsula Yacht Club where our ambassador Commodore Rob and the Potter Yachters were warmly welcomed with gracious hospitality and one fine St. Patrick's Weekend fandango.





Potter Yachters filled up three tables and enjoyed an Irish dinner of delicious corned beef, cabbage, carrots, and the like.



Photo by Goose

Two Commodores: Lilley Yee , Peninsula Yacht Club with Rob Sampson

Dessert was found in two giant green top hat cakes, with rainbow coloring inside.



Photo by Rob Sampson

A duly ceremonious raffle was held with various prizes for the Potter Yachters. The conversation, music and drink were most enjoyable, and a wonderful time was had by all.



Many thanks to the fantastic folks at Peninsula Yacht Club for their high spirited hospitality and to all the Potter Yachters and good friends who showed up and made this a most propitious start to what promises to be a fantastic sailing season. - 🚩

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



APRIL 1978

It's the [FIRST newsletter](#) of "the Potter Owners of the Bay Area". (A name had yet to be selected.) How many of you remember this one? Or were actually THERE for the first meeting to make it all happen?!

The first issue started off with an exclamatory, "The Potter owners of the Bay Area have UNITED! And are we ever a good group!" The first dinner meeting (held at The King's Table by Dory Taylor's suggestion) had a turnout of 29 people. And a big THANK YOU went out to Herb & Virginia Orford who introduced Jim & Carol Mangels, Chip & Piera Shackelton, and Dory Taylor to each other and encouraged them to get a Potter group together. It worked!

It's interesting to note that a quick survey at the meeting revealed about half of the attendees primarily sailed reservoirs and half were Bay sailors. Most had families. A few indicated interest in racing.

The primary goal was to establish a monthly newsletter - which, in the days before webpages, email, and even cellphone text messages, was the way to get the word out. Well, there was always the trusty [telephone tree](#).

Here's a sampling of what they decided:

Yearly dues set at \$3. A newsletter will be mailed monthly. Being the primary source of communication, the newsletter can include anything - announcements, boats/parts for sale/trade, boat improvements, suggestions and 'tips' for trailering and overnight experiences, packing food and cooking aboard, good and bad places to launch, etc. We'll always include the report of the most recent sail and tell where the next one will be.

The first sail was set for Del Valle Regional Park on Sunday, May 21, 1978. Skippers meeting, 10:30 a.m., Launch time, 11:30 a.m.

Next was a survey for what to call the club. Choices were (among others): Bay Potters, Potter People, West Wight Armada, Potter Sailors, and a blank. Bert Goldrath came up with "Potter Yotters", which immediately caught on. And everyone agreed with Harry Gordon's refinement of today's "Potter Yachters".

Carol Mangels was the newsletter's very first editor who painstakingly ~~typed~~ typed it all out on a typewriter. The first issue was amazingly flawless!

Thanks for making it happen! And thanks to everyone for keeping it going!

Boats for Sale or Wanted

Did you know that the Potter Yachters have a very active website? I know you check the website every month to download the [latest copy of this amazing newsletter](#), and you're probably also aware that the [2015 Sailing Event Calendar](#) is available there, too. But those monthly and yearly updates hardly qualify as "very active". No, I'm talking about the innocuous [For Sale or Wanted](#) page which your webmaster, Mike Westfield, constantly has to update. It's so popular that I've seen new additions to the list multiple times a week. If you haven't checked it out, take a look. And thank Mike for his efforts the next time you see him! These're just a few titles from March:

- Sun, 29 Mar 15 - Wanted: WWP 15 - Gainesville, FL
- Fri, 27 Mar 15 - For Sale: 1999 Potter 19 - Greenwood, SC
- Wed, 25 Mar 15 - Wanted: Guppy 13 Pocket Cruiser - Los Angeles, CA
- Tue, 24 Mar 15 - For Sale: \$5,500 West Wight Potter 15 - Kansas City, MO
- Mon, 23 Mar 15 - Wanted: Sanibel 18 - within 500 miles of Louisville, KY
- Tue, 17 Mar 15 - Wanted: Potter 19 - Anywhere in Northern California

Officer's Club		
Commodore: Rob Sampson PY.Commodore.Rob@gmail.com	Vice Commodore: Carl Sundholm sundholm@att.net P-19, <i>Dagmar</i>	Newsletter Editor: Phil Marcelis sail@marcelis.com P-19, #1487
P-15 Fleet Captain: Don Person dnjperson@comcast.net P-15, #2472, <i>Sarah Anne</i>	P-19 Fleet Captain: Eric Zilbert ezilbert@cde.ca.gov P-19, #629, <i>Riptide</i>	Webmaster: Mike Westfield westfield@potter-pod.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Brennan pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net ComPac Legacy, #1, <i>Latis</i>		Website: www.potter-yachters.org

Potter Yachter Membership

Join the *Potter Yachters* – the club that has been around since 1978 and, with your participation, will continue to withstand the test of time. We're really a bunch of nice folks who would just love to have other nice folks join us. Your dues help support club activities and publish the newsletter, so you'll be sure to know when we're out sailing, whether that's in the San Juan Islands, Monterey, the SF Bay, or elsewhere. Annual dues are \$25. Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan".

Send your payment (with your name and address) to: Pat Brennan
1305 Webster Street #C205
Alameda CA, 94501

See us online at: www.potter-yachters.org

Organized in Northern California in 1978, the *Potter Yachters* is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to anyone interested in West Wight Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sailboats.



Patrick Brennan
1305 Webster St., C205
Alameda, CA 94501

With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the **Potter Yachter** that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal experience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication).

- *The Editor*

